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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 23, 2012**

## **State honors 196 top high school seniors for academics, leadership, service**

**OLYMPIA** – One hundred ninety-six Washington high school seniors have been honored as Washington Scholars or Washington Scholar Alternates in recognition of their academic achievements, leadership, and community service, the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) and the Association of Washington School Principals (AWSP) announced today.

The list of Washington Scholars and Alternates is available on the HECB website at [www.hecb.wa.gov/PayingForCollege/StateAid/WashingtonScholars](http://www.hecb.wa.gov/PayingForCollege/StateAid/WashingtonScholars).

The HECB conducts the Washington Scholars selection process in cooperation with the AWSP.

The program annually honors the accomplishments of three high school seniors from each of the state's 49 legislative districts – a total of 147 students. A Washington Scholar Alternate also is designated from each district.

“The Washington Scholar designation is one of the most significant honors a student can receive in high school, and it places them in a very select group of highly accomplished young people,” said HECB Executive Director Don Bennett. “The program is a reminder of the importance of providing a strong educational system that enables all students to realize their academic and leadership potential.”

“This award recognizes more than academic achievement,” said Gary Kipp, AWSP Executive Director, “Washington Scholars give back to their communities and demonstrate leadership in multiple ways. They are truly well-rounded young people.”

Washington Scholar candidates, who represent the top 1 percent of graduating seniors, are initially nominated by high school principals based on academic, leadership, and community-service accomplishments. Final recipients are then selected by a 36-member committee of representatives from public and private high schools, state educational agencies, and public and private four-year colleges and universities.

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